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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/45/849/Add.1)]

45/196. Industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation 1/ and the New Delhi Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrialization of Developing Countries and International Co-operation for their Industrial Development, 2/

Recalling its resolutions 35/66 of 5 December 1980, 36/182 of 17 December 1981, 37/212 of 20 December 1982 and 38/192 of 20 December 1983, as well as other relevant resolutions in the field of industrial development co-operation,

Recalling also its resolution 44/237 of 22 December 1989 on the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, by which it proclaimed the period 1991-2000 the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa and proclaimed 20 November Africa Industrialization Day, for the purpose of mobilizing the commitment of the international community to the industrialization of Africa,

1/ See A/10112, chap. IV.

2/ ID/CONF.4/22 and Corr.1, chap. VI.

Recalling further its resolutions 42/186 and 42/187 of 11 December 1987, 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 43/196 of 20 December 1988 and 44/228 and 44/229 of 22 December 1989, relating to environment and development, and reaffirming, inter alia, the need for assistance from developed countries and the appropriate organs and organizations of the United Nations system to developing countries in enhancing their capacity for identifying, analysing, monitoring, managing and preventing damage to the environment by industry in accordance with their national development plans, priorities and objectives,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, bearing in mind the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 3/ and taking note of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990, 4/

Concerned that, despite an increase in the overall industrial production of the developing countries, their share in world industrial production remains at a low level,

Convinced that the reactivation of economic growth and development of developing countries would be facilitated, inter alia, through their industrial development and the diversification and modernization of their productive activities,

Recognizing the necessity of properly assisting all developing countries at their different stages of industrialization, mainly through the development and strengthening of industrial infrastructures, the modernization of production capabilities and the improvement of training techniques,

Recognizing also the responsibility of developing countries for developing their industrial and technological capabilities, and stressing that their efforts should be adequately supported by the international community and that the transfer of technology, on appropriate terms, to developing countries and the training of national technical personnel are essential in this regard,

Recognizing further the importance of industrial development for strengthening science and technology and indigenous capacity-building in developing countries, including appropriate institutional infrastructure, such as research institutes, centres of standardization and metrology, and industrial and technological information centres,

3/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

4/ See A/CONF.147/Misc.9.

Aware that, in selecting patterns of industrialization, the developing countries should take into account the need to generate employment and to incorporate new and emerging environmentally sound technologies,

Convinced that, in order to promote the industrial development of developing countries, their indigenous capabilities in such areas as entrepreneurship, management, technology, financing and marketing need to be built up or strengthened and that technical and financial assistance would need to be extended in support of the national efforts of the developing countries for this purpose,

Recognizing that any viable process of industrialization requires an adequately high and increasing level of demand, which can be substantially reinforced in respect of developing countries through trade liberalization and a sustained improvement in the access of developing countries' exports to the markets of both developed and developing countries,

Recognizing also that steady growth in agricultural productivity can be enhanced in particular through the application of industrial inputs and the mechanization of agriculture, which is possible only if a reasonable pace of industrialization is ensured,

Recognizing further that the promotion of agro-industries plays a key role in the industrialization of developing countries,

Convinced that industrial progress in developing countries can also be significantly enhanced through co-operation among such countries at all levels and by integrating markets and setting up joint ventures and human resources development programmes for training and upgrading skills and through the integration of women, which should be among the objectives of policies and measures to promote industrialization in developing countries,

Aware that foreign direct investment in an appropriate domestic context can make an important contribution to industrialization in developing countries, not only by providing additional financial resources, but also as a means of providing access to modern and environmentally sound technologies, skills and markets,

Convinced that entrepreneurship should be encouraged at all levels and in all sectors for the setting up of industries and that there is a strong potential for the development of small and medium-sized industries that could contribute to the expansion of both urban and rural employment opportunities and eradicate poverty,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization as the co-ordinating organ in the United Nations system having primary responsibility for promoting and accelerating industrial development and the transfer of industrial technology to developing countries,

1. Invites developed countries to take fully into account the broad implications of their policy decisions for the international economy, and in particular their effects on the economies of the developing countries, including the industrial development of those countries;

2. Recognizes that developing countries need to provide adequate support to their infant industries, when appropriate, in order to enable them to build up competitive industrial capacities;

3. Emphasizes the need for more effective international co-operation through all appropriate mechanisms, including training, workshops, seminars, fellowships and international conferences, in order to facilitate access and transfer to the developing countries of environmentally sound technologies, including new and emerging ones;

4. Requests the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and other international organizations to help developing countries evaluate and select industrial technologies suitable for their development;

5. Recognizes the need to support co-operation among developing countries in this regard, with a view to improving their capabilities in negotiating with technology suppliers;

6. Stresses the role of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in assisting developing countries in the formulation of programmes and plans for industrialization in their countries, and recognizes the contribution of the special trust fund schemes launched by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in developing alternatives to traditional assistance programmes;

7. Recognizes that there are significant opportunities for economic and technical co-operation among developing countries with regard to their industrialization, and, in this context, recommends that developed countries and international organizations support such co-operative ventures;

8. Also recognizes that in promoting the industrial development of developing countries special emphasis should be placed on an appropriate mix of the agricultural, industrial and service sectors among small, medium-sized and large industries, depending upon the conditions obtaining in each developing country;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session on ways and means of promoting the enhancement of United Nations activities with regard to the training of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs from developing countries, with a view to promoting all related sectors and disciplines supporting industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries;

10. Recommends that the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination examine ways and means of fostering United Nations system activities with regard to industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries and report thereon, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session;

11. Recommends that the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in close co-operation with the appropriate organs, organizations and bodies of the

United Nations system, including the regional commissions, make recommendations to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, through the Economic and Social Council, with a view to strengthening effectively industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries;

12. Requests the Secretary-General to give priority in the medium-term plan to the issue of industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries;

13. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session an item entitled "Industrial development co-operation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries" and subsequently to include this item in the agenda on a biennial basis.

71st plenary meeting

21 December 1990